Government is implementing the Integrated Cereals and Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping System Areas and National Pulses Development Project which are to continue during the 9th Five Year Plan. The increase in area under cereals and pulses through these programmes is envisaged only through intensive use of land in various seasons.

सिंचित तथा असिंचित भूमि की उपज दर

908.**श्री बजजिन्दर सिंह**:

श्री बलवंत सिंह रामूवालिया:

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में सिंचित तथा असिंचित भूमि की उपज दर में भारी अन्तर हैं;

(ख) यदि हां,तो सिंचित तथा असिंचित भूमि की उपज दर के संबंध में सरकार का क्या अनुमान हैं; और

(ग) देश में आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के अंत में कुल कृषि उत्पादन की तुलना में सिंचित और असिंचित भूमि से कितने-कितने प्रतिशत उपज के होने का अनुमान हैं?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री(श्री सोप पाल): (क) से (ग) जी हां,देश में सिंचित और असिंचित परिस्थितियों के अन्तर्गत,विभिन्न फसलों की उपज की दरों में अन्तर रहता है । तथापि,इस संबंध में सभी राज्यों/फसलों के बारे में सरकारी अनुमान क्रमबद्व रूप में उपलब्ध नहीं है जिससे इन अनुमानों को अखिल भारतीय स्तर पर परिणाम निकाला जा सके ।

Strike Threat by Fishermen

909. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fishermen all over the country threatened to go on agitation including strike;

(b) if-so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to find a solution to the threatened strike?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No intimation of agitation/strike from fishermen all over the country have been received.

(b) and (c) The question do not arise.

Suicide by Farmers

910. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large number of suicides committed by farmers in different States;

(b) if so, the States from where such incidents have came to the notice of Government;

(c) the reasons why the farmers in those States have committed suicides; and

(d) the Steps taken to help the fanners in those States which are facing same kind of problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra have reported total such suicidal deaths as 236, 29 and 51, respectively, mainly as a result of damage to crops due to natural calamities.

It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments conerned T provide relief to the people affected by natural calamities from their annual allocation under the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). Additional assistance, if any, is provided from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) in the event of calamities of rare severity. An additonal assistance of Rs. 12.00 crore was released to the Government of Andhra Pradesh during 1997-98, from the NFCR in the wake of damage to crops, mainly cotton, due to pest attack. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has sanctioned ex-gratia of Rs. 1.00 lakh to the next of kin of each deceased while the Government of Karnataka has sanctioned ex-gratia of Rs. 1.00 lakhs each in 13 suicidal cases which has some relation to crop loss and the